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Letter dated 13 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I wish to inform you that on 19 July 2000 the Kuwaiti naval forces committed fresh acts of piracy in Iraqi territorial waters, firing on the boat called *Ta'awan* (No. 5007/Basrah), making a number of hits and causing material damage. They also attacked a number of launches and boats belonging to nationals of the United Arab Emirates, as follows:

Interception of the United Arab Emirates launch *Qannas*, with seven Indians on board;

Interception of the Indian launch *Barari*, with 12 Indians on board;

Interception of the Indian launch *Barakat Allah*, with 12 Indians on board.

The action by Kuwaiti naval forces in entering our territorial waters and attacking boats and launches inside those waters is a manifest breach of Iraq's sovereignty and integrity and an act of armed aggression that, by the most elementary standards governing relations between States, constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the principles of international law and prevailing international conventions that reject the threat or use of force against the integrity and independence of any State. We protest against this hostile conduct of the Kuwaiti authorities, and we urge you to intervene in order to prevent these violations, namely entry into Iraq's territorial waters and the perpetration of such acts of aggression and provocation. The Government of the Republic of Iraq reserves in full the inalienable right accorded to it by the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international conventions to take whatever measures are necessary to defend the sovereignty and integrity of its territory and its territorial waters and, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, to seek compensation for the material and other damage done to it by these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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